



Poolway Shared Services Hub



Project name:

Poolway Shared Services Hub

Location:

Yardley, Birmingham

Services:

Concept Architecture
Concept Structural & Civil Engineering
Concept Building Services (M&E)
Concept Masterplanning
Concept Landscape Architecture

The Brief

One's designers were asked to create a new community facility as part of the Council's Business Transformation programme, incorporating a library, youth development centre, Birmingham City Council Customer First Centre, GP practice and fire station. When different sites/services were suggested, the team at One revisited the concepts and adapted the designs to meet the new requirements.



Project Overview

The design reflects the requirement for a 'gateway' building for the region that is low carbon – both in design and in operation. To achieve the low carbon objective, the design team utilised a host of techniques to achieve an airtight building envelope, while incorporating the use of thermal mass, natural ventilation, night cooling, natural ventilation stacks and a green roof.

Where needed, sustainable technologies were also incorporated, such as photovoltaic panels, rainwater harvesting and a biomass boiler, which would be powered using wood pellets made from the waste material from the Council's own Parks and Nature Conservation Service. The pre-assessment for the design showed the building achieved a BREEAM 'Outstanding' rating – the optimum ranking, representing truly exemplar schemes.

As part of the later changes to the brief, the landscape architects were asked to look at high level masterplanning for the whole South Yardley area. The proposed masterplan created a neighbourhood with a sense of place, providing a town park to connect the communities and a walkable village linked to civic buildings, high quality public realm, local shops, transport hubs, sporting facilities and public green spaces.



The Benefits

- **Collaborative approach shaped a shared vision** – The design team led a series of workshops with a number of partners, including Birmingham City Council, the PCT, Homes and Communities Agency and West Midlands Fire Service in order to achieve a series of designs that met everyone's aspirations.
- **A building design that achieves low carbon status** – By embracing 'PassivHaus' design and using construction materials to increase air-tightness and reduce energy usage, the BREEAM pre-assessment showed the building would achieve an 'outstanding' rating.
- **Meeting tight timeframes** - Despite the large and complex nature of the development and the numerous partners involved, the project's tight timescale (to submit a business case) benefitted from a truly integrated design team that was able to work in close collaboration on all aspects of the design simultaneously.
- **Robust masterplanning that would benefit the community for years to come** – The team created a new public open space within an existing park, ensuring good linkages to connect the community through this shared space.



Design work was taken beyond RIBA stage C and Birmingham City Council was able to produce a business case from the information provided. The concept development made good use of changing levels on site by introducing an undercroft car park and impressive landscape design.

Julian Kavanagh, Development Director BaS LIFT



For further information please contact:
One Creative Environments Ltd
T: 01905 362300 www.oneltd.com